



Log of Bark Platina
Thos. McKenzie Master
which sailed from New Bedford
July 16, 1901 for a whaling voyage
in South Atlantic Ocean
Kept by John Wing Jr.

Log of Bark Platina The McKenzie
Master

Log of Bark Platina Thos McKenle
Thursday July 18, 1901

Got the Bark underway at 6 AM.
from off Puna where we had been
anchored the past two days on account
of fog & head wind and we have also been
getting ready for whaling, the wind very
light from SSW & proceeded to beat out
of the bay to sea, Wind gradually
increased & we finally passed Homanaka
too close for comfort at 4.30 P.M. when
the captain & mate took our departure.
The wind rapidly increased & it began
to shut in foggy and at about 6 P.M.
it became very rough, and our officers
& mates were nearly half drowned
getting anchors on bow. Took in the fore-
to gain sail & started our fog horn going
which we were forced to continue nearly all night.

master which sailed from New Bedford July 16, 0
Tried the pumps but found we don't
leak. At about 10 P.M. the wind abated
we set the fore & gaff sail. The wind shifted
to N. N. W. & continued for about 4 hours when
it shifted back again to S. S. W. & blows
very fresh. Bark under full sail except
the royal quite a heavy sea on & foggy
So ends this day.

Friday July 19

This day begins with the wind same as
last night S. S. W. only not foggy.
Bark is staggering along under all
sail except royal. It is so rough &
the bark is heeled over so far that there
is little work that we can do.
The mate however worked on the boom
to his boat & the 2d mate coiled his line.
Very heavy sea on. At 2.30 took in the
fore & gaff sail afterwards the wind hauled

Log of Bark Platina McKezniemaster
to WNW with strong breeze & we braced
the yards more square & soon after
set the fore to gale sail. Bark steering
S.E. under all sail except the royal
quite a heavy sea on. Got the cable
stowed down in the chain locker and
stopped the Hawse pipes. The wind died
out & changed to WNW for a short while
& then shifted back again to WSW with
strong breeze. Took in the fore to gale
& gaff to pel. manned the pumps but
found no water. so quiet this day.

Saturday July 20

This day begins with very strong
breeze from SW with rough seas. Bark
steering SE under fore to 1/2 sails main
to gale & spanker. Two flying fish
came aboard & the steward caught them
and suppose somebody ate them. There
is no much going out today except the

Sailed July 16, 1901

mate is making some gours for his gaff
and the second 3 mates are working on
the boats. In the evening the wind
died & shifted to. N N W with strong breeze
set the fore to galsl & braild up the
spanker, it has not been so we can set
the royal yet. Bark steering S E there
is much thunder & lightning in distance
& it is growing much warmer

So ends this day

Sunday July 21

This day begins with strong breeze
from the W S W. Bark under all sail except
^{fore} to galsl & spanker now and then a rain
squall. The officers busy loading bomb
guns & lamps, crew are clearing the buggiest
board to sties, after dinner the wind shifted to
due N & braild the yards squares hauled up the
mainel later the wind hauled to N N W & braild
the yards & set the fore to galsl. have not used the
royal yet the weather is fine the sea is very blue

and it constantly grows warm
Tried the pumps but made nothing but
bilge. So ends this day

Monday July 22

This day begins with fine weather
+ wind strong from NW with smooth sea
bark steering SE under fore & main top
gall. Watch employed breaking out the
after hold while 5 employs Bernardo
Tavares, seaman who was hoisting standing
on the house the guy broke & the
pendant & the block in falling struck
him, knocking him down off the
house to the deck making him
insensible & knocking the wind out of
him. He was carried forward on the top gallam
forecastle, & will no doubt soon recover
Cooper is busy making & splicing booms
Bernardo Tavares returned to light duty in
his next watch on deck. Employed in
breaking out the hold nearly all day

afterwards the wind died & quietly after
we squared the yards & brail took down
In the evening the wind died out &
came quite strong from the NW & went
the shaker & gale to sail. Bore the
SE by E.

Sailed this day

Tuesday July 29

This day began with strong rain
from NW & was joined with the sun &
lightning & some rain. Sailed about the
royal yard & manures the same thread.

The mother is still at work in the
There is very little of a cut in the
day was nearly all day sailing
with the wind & weather. Bore the
the wind & Bore the wind SE by E.

Sailed this day

Wednesday July 24

This day begins with weather is
same as yesterday. Have changed our
course to SE by S. Have been beating
out the running trough road.
Nothing of interest occurs today. In
the evening we had some severe
thunder showers with very sharp
squalls, but it afterward cleared
in blowing from the West. Bark
steering SE by S. So ends the day.

Thursday July 25

This day begins with strong
breezes from the West. Bark under
top sails & other wind. Not much of a
down to day. Set off a new gridiron
made on new brooms. In the
evening the wind moderated and set the
sails on a gallantail. Bark steering
the wind headed SE by S. So ends the day.

Friday July 26. Whale raised
The day begins with strong
breezes from the WSW & continues
through the day at about 4 o'clock
when the first whale is raised. There is
nothing of great interest until about
6:30 AM. The first whale is raised &
got the boat ready to lower, but since
could not get anywhere near him in
the ship, it becoming dark & foggy we
did not lower. Lay to under the west gun
for the night.

Saturday July 27
The day begins with strong breeze from
W. At daylight we raised 3 whales
& lowered all three boats. The starboard
boat (the "Vince") went over right on top of
the whales. The boat stores a heavy gun
struck the whale in the back and the crew
of it went below. The boat got stuck some.

Had to return to the ship. The other
boats gave chase to the whale but
succeeded until 12 o'clock when we were
chased. The officer was mortally wounded
the boatman was brought to shore on the
wounded. Got the boat out and began
to repair her. At night put the
underclothes, in a strong frame 30
30 en route to day.

Sunday July 18

Monday begins with strong wind from NW
at 6 AM raised a sail which proved to
be the Golden City who sent a boat aboard
with the Capt & 25 men. we also sent
our boat aboard him with the boat crew
remained all day the City has been out
about 13 miles and has been about 400 men
give us a news of Capt. Bantz of A. R. Tucker
being drowned July 15 by being caught in the
Tucker line probably gone home. At about 7 PM

we have to 2 Sch. can men & 1 lower down
- munnents look to their work. The 2nd
letter home by mail. Put the bark under
short sail for the night. I was up
till nearly morning when we let sight of
her. So ends this day.

Monday July 29

This day begins with a new attack
wind from S. W. Bark cruising to the
New employees are getting well along
ready. I lectured on the bark
Made some tail blocks. Pressed out the
Finished repairing the starboard boat &
put her out in the creek. Ends this day.

Tuesday 30

Wednesday begins with fine weather and
strong breeze from the W. S. W. Star coming
in the water way side.
At about two o'clock the natives
raised a sperm whale from the water.

Small

and soon after lowered all three boats
+ gave pursuit. Soon after the waist
boat got fast the other two boats also
went on & they soon killed him & the
ship sailed up to them, it being too rough to
tow the whale far about 7 PM made
the whale fast to the ship. So ended this day
Wednesday July 31

This day begins with fine weather
wind from S.W. at daylight began cutting
the whale & finished at about 4:30 PM
I think will yield about 80 bbls.

So ends this day

Thursday Aug 1

This day begins with fine weather &
no wind breeze from S.W. Started the
work at daylight & began to oil
about 6 PM. raised a whale & made
the word two boats and after going to bundle
the whale & the boat & the whale

currs and kept off. The starboard boat
got fast & at about 830 PM being moved
got the whale along side the ship for the
night. So ends this day.

Friday Aug 2

This day begins with fine weather
light winds. Commenced cutting
at 10 clock the deck being full of
to cut until that time. Hales & the
case on deck finished cutting about
dark. People working on the ship.
Think whale will yield about 500 lbs.

Sat Aug 3

This day begins with light winds &
showers. Busy all hands putting
bladders trying but all day wasted.
We are drifting long under my star
board with the wheel chocks.
Have filled the tank with oil & made
Thursday

Sunday Aug 4

The day begins with fine weather
light wind. At about 8 AM raised
a whale got ready to lower but when
the whale came up against was so far
to windward that it was of no use. Finished
hoisting at about daylight & cleared the
deck & pumped ship. So ended the day.

Monday Aug 5

This day begins with fine weather
light wind from S.E. Barbed
hook sail drifting along with the
usual shock. Hatches & cargo in
stowing down on deck & spilling water
out the hold. Stewards caught a dolphin
this afternoon with hook & line.

George Smith Green / and off duty with
leg well so thought to be caused by
working on oil. Pumped ship & then
took a long line & barbed
hook & line & pulled in. So ended the day.

Tuesday Aug 6

This day begins with fine weather
and light breeze from S. W. to the
fore and we are up to 11 M. but
no wind at the vessel. Observing the
dolphins this morning they are very
gregarious. George Smith told me
Duty. Finished to use a barrel of
oil about 130 lbs. The vessel
was hoisted & put in a bark and
oil for the night. Saw the whale.

Wednesday Aug 7

This day began with a wind
from the N. W. Bark came up & E. under
light sail. Large bark is right under
our lee steering nearly our course.
After 11 M. we returned to duty.

Cooper employed me in
Pumpkin. I was head of
part of the crew.

Thursday Aug 8

This day begins with fine weather
& moderate winds from the WNW
dark under a blue sky turning S.E.
Part of company with masted bark
sailed at about 10 AM
passed a large island with 3 masts
showing to West. E. ship here a sailing
boat. Soon after raised a whaling
bark and went down to her. Found
her to be the same with 2000 sperm
and sailing May 2. Sent our mate
aboard with letters to Capt. Shockey
Washburn, & boat crew came aboard
staid till near 11 o'clock. I sent the stay

Friday Aug 9

This day begins with fine weather
& fresh breeze from the NNE. Sun seen in clouds
to leeward. A large bark in sight to windward
She was not us & we exchanged signals

found her to be New Bark Town.
About 12 o'clock raised anchor & lowered
all the three boats. So did the ship leave.
The whale went down & some people
down the ship's boats & the boat got
fast, so we did not get him working
whole. We then went back off to windward
& saw his sight of 5 miles. The ship
was decked with the Ark under a storm
for the night. So on this day

Thurs. Aug. 10

Friday began with fine weather &
light winds. Bark steering S E in place
all. Crew employed at different places
on ship. Cooks and boys picked.
The fish was 12 was 12 pickles
So on this day

Wednesday Aug 14

This day begins with fine weather
nearly calm at 10 A.M. raised a
 sperm whale off the port beam
lowered three boats and pulled for the
whale, after a little breeze sprung
the starboard boat went on fish hook.
The boats were off until sunset
before they got the whale to the ship.
S.O.B. wrote this day.

Thursday Aug 15

This day begins with fine weather
moderate breeze from N. E. W. Begun to
cut in the whale at daylight, about
11 A.M. finished (quick work).
Started the work immediately &
began to oil.

S.O.B. wrote this day

Friday Aug 16

Thursday began with cloudy weather & blowing half a gale from W. N. W. Bark started N. N. E. under very short sail with her sails & poles & tryed out & killed the stinks.

Sunday was day

Sat Aug 17

Thursday began with fine weather & no wind. Found a large whale killed & whaling boats & fishing boats & soon after raised a whale. Took the boats and gave chase & did not find the schooner with the two boats. The whale came aboard when he came up & came nearest to one of the schooner's boats & and threw out our factors & so we did not get him. Came down to schooner and found her to be Pearl Nelson, Manley trying to get her back & was for leaving Norfolk. We kept

off to seaward, steering S.S.E. with light
breezes. Lighted a 4 masts barkentine
sailing ship to N.E. Elliott Long Greenhouse
of duty, had some kind of a fit. Joseph
Willis Shipkeeper effected pick with them
he called a ewalgh of Stomach & gave them
some salts. Pumped ship & washed deck.

To end this day

Sunday Aug 18

This day began with fine weather &
light breeze. Wind steering E.S.E. Saw a
sailing schooner under full sail
going to eastward. We are employed in
striking down our sail, which takes us
work all day. The men Willis and Long
at the foremast. Pumped ship, washed deck
To end this day

Aug 25 Whall

Thursday began with fine weather
arrived here from W.S.W. Park steering ESE
under full sail. About 4 PM spruce
whales, cowhairs, cowhairs, cowhairs
and other moderate fish got on
cowhairs and got them to appear to me
3 o'clock Thursday

Monday Aug 26

Friday began with fine weather.
Required daylight to get in the whale
got it all in at breakfast time. Then with
15 barrels started the work. Required
all day to get all through boiling about 1 PM.
3 o'clock Friday

Tuesday Aug 27

Friday began with fine weather & away
through the ice from the north coast
to the south E under full sail at about
noon the large whales & the moderate

making a fire night. B. Long returned to
duty on deck, he is not allowed to go
ashore however. Joseph Willis still off
duty except that he sometimes takes the
watch when boats are blown round.

Wednesday Aug 28

This day began with cloudy weather &
wind blowing from S.W. with rough
sea. Boat steering E. with all sail set.
About 2 PM. had a severe rain squall
during which took in top gallant sail,
& all did not last long however & it is
all again. 5 o'clock Friday

Thursday Aug 29

This day began with finer weather
good breeze from W.S.W. Boat steering SE by E
under full sail. At 9 AM nearly ran
into a school of whales with the ship
to the whale. When in the sun glass we
could not see them, & moved on to

boats gave chase. But we had
evidently galloped them, the boats could
not get very near them, so at 12 o'clock
called the boats back & kept our
course SE by E 3 or 4 miles this day
(Sawada Aug 3)

Thursday begins with fine hot water
& calm, raised a whale at daylight
after breakfast lowered three boats for
chase but the boats could not see
the whale again, nor could they make
out our signals with the sails. I think
owing to the glare of the sun, so after
pulling around for about three hours
came back to the ship. Had the fine
the whale at the range of 4000 yds.
was then going to bring her aboard
But the cable broke. Forecast
fine & steady lighting. Hechuffed
some other first place but we took

him out, and put him in cabin two
days out. He was Italian named Manuel
Put the bark under lower topsails for
the night. To make

Tues day Sept 3

This day begins with a heavy breeze
from WNW with heavy sea. Bark steering
into NW under lower topsails.
Sighted a full rigged ship steering to
eastward. Had a heavy rain & wind
moderated, & set her for sail & after
pumped ship & started sail for the night.

Sundae Sept 8

This day begins with moderate breeze
from NW & heavy sea. Bark steering W by N
& rolling heavily. Waves quite clear
the islands. At sunset put the bark
under lower topsails for the night.

Monday Sept 7

Entered the harbor of Fayal
at about 5 P.M. this day.

47/3

